

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8915

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

CINCUNC, SEOUL, KS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6408

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, KS

SUBJECT: VIOLENT INCIDENT AT PANMUNJOM JOINT SECURITY AREA

1. TWO AMERICAN ARMY OFFICERS SERVING IN THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND WERE KILLED IN AN ASSAULT BY NORTH KOREAN GUARDS TODAY. THE FOLLOWING DRAFT PRESS RELEASE PREPARED BY UNC SUMMARIZES WHAT IS PRESENTLY KNOWN ABOUT THE INCIDENT.

2. TEXT: SEOUL--TWO UNITED NATIONS COMMAND OFFICERS WERE MURDERED IN AN UNPROVOKED ASSAULT BY NK GUARDS THIS MORNING AT THE JOINT SECURITY AREA, PANMUNJOM.

3. THE TWO ARMY OFFICERS, BOTH AMERICANS, DIED FROM MASSIVE HEAD INJURIES AND STAB WOUNDS INFLICTED BY AN ESTIMATED 30 RPT 30 NK GUARDS WHO
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ATTACKED A SMALL UNC WORK PARTY WITH AXES,

METAL PIKES AND AXE HANDLES ABOUT 10:45 A.M.

4. A ROK ARMY ENLISTED MAN, A SECURITY GUARD ASSIGNED TO THE U.S. ARMY SUPPORT GROUP, JSA, SUSTAINED STAB WOUNDS AND IS IN THE 121ST EVACUATION HOSPITAL IN SEOUL.

5. A ROKA OFFICER, FOUR OTHER U.S. SOLDIERS AND THREE ADDITIONAL ROKA SOLDIERS WERE TREATED FOR MINOR CUTS AND BRUISES.

6. THE UNC HAS CALLED FOR THE 379TH MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMAND MEETING TO CONVENE AT 11:00 A.M., THURSDAY, AUGUST 19. NK HAS NOT YET REPLIED.

7. THE THREE UNC OFFICERS AND THE ENLISTED GUARDS WERE ESCORTING FIVE KOREAN SERVICE CORPS WORKERS WHO WERE ROUTINELY TRIMMING BRANCHES FROM A TREE SOME 35 TO 40 YARDS FROM UNC CHECKPOINT NUMBER THREE AT THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE BRIDGE OF NO RETURN.

8. TWO NK OFFICERS AND SEVERAL GUARDS CAME TO THE AREA OF THE WORK. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION DURING WHICH A NK OFFICER EXPRESSED NO OBJECTION TO THE TREE TRIMMING, THE NK'S SUDDENLY DEMANDED THAT THE KSC'S STOP WORK.

9. SHORTLY AFTERWARDS A NK VEHICLE BROUGHT ADDITIONAL GUARDS AND THE NK OFFICER WAS HEARD TO TELL THEM QUOTE TO KILL END QUOTE THE UNC PERSONNEL AND THE FIGHT ENSUED WITH MANY OF THE NKS JOINING IN.

10. THESE MURDERS WERE THE FIRST DEATHS EVER IN THE JOINT SECURITY AREA, SITE OF THE JOINT ARMISTICE COMMAND MEETINGS. IT IS A NEUTRAL AREA WITHIN THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE WHERE FREE ACCESS AND MOVEMENT ARE GUARANTEED BY THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT. THE NKS ALSO DAMAGED THREE UNC VEHICLES DURING THE
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MELEE.

11. IDENTIFICATION OF THE CASUALTIES IS PENDING NOTIFICATION OF THE NEXT OF KIN. UNC CONTINUES TO INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENT. END TEXT.

12. IF QUERIED BY MEDIA EMBASSY WILL USE FOLLOWING PRESS LINE: Q) WHAT IS THE USG REACTION TO THE

INCIDENT? A) ANY INCIDENT INVOLVING THE DEATHS OF AMERICANS IS REGARDED AS AN EXTREMELY SERIOUS MATTER BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

13. Q) WHAT INTERPRETATION DOES THE USG PUT ON THE INCIDENT? A) WE COULD NOT SPECULATE ON THE MOTIVATION OF THE DPRK.

14. Q) DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENT? A) AN INVESTIGATION BY THE PROPER AUTHORITIES IS UNDERWAY. FURTHER COMMENT WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF THAT INVESTIGATION.
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